

The information contained in this pamphlet is based on current laws and best management practices. The information and recommendations may change as new laws and best management practices are developed. Contact the Chattanooga Stormwater Management Office if you have any questions.

CHATTANOOGA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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www.chattanooga.gov/stormwater



Other Sources of Information

Hamilton County Soil Conservation District

6183 Adamson Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37416
Phone: (423) 894-1687 ext. 3
www.hamiltontn.gov/scd

Hamilton County Agricultural Extension Service

6183 Adamson Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37416
Phone: (423) 855-6113
www.hamiltontn.gov/agextension

**USING LAWN
CHEMICALS SAFELY**

**KEEP YOUR LAWN GREEN
AND OUR WATER CLEAN**

**PLANT SELECTION, SOIL
TESTING, & LAWN
MAINTENANCE TIPS**

Did you know that
improper yard
maintenance can
pollute your local
stream and cost you
money?



Know Your Watershed

www.knowyourwatershed.chattanooga.gov

It's true!

Improper maintenance of your yard and landscaping can cost you money. Money down the drain and into the local stream.



Pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides are most effective when bought, used, and disposed properly. Improper use costs money, can be a health hazard, and can make local streams polluted.



A well-maintained and healthy yard helps increase property values, helps prevent erosion, conserves water consumption, and increases aesthetic and recreational values.

Various options and methods are available to help you save money, maintain a nice and healthy yard, and keep the local stream clean.

*Healthy streams
are no accident.
Together we can
make a
difference!*



KEEP YOUR LAWN GREEN AND OUR WATER CLEAN

Proper Design and Plant Selection

A properly designed yard and landscaping can greatly reduce the time and money spent on maintenance and also provide aesthetic pleasure. Some things to consider when deciding on a yard include:

- Select plants that are best suited to the conditions of a specific site. Be sure to consider the amount of sun, the degree of available moisture, and the soil type. This reduces the need for water and fertilizing.
- Consider planting native species, which are generally best adapted for a particular area and can fulfill both environmental and aesthetic requirements.
- In shady areas substitute shade loving native plants for turf grass.
- Reduce or eliminate mowed lawn in areas that are not used for active recreation. Planting the appropriate herbaceous perennials or shrubs will reduce water runoff, filter sediment, and provide wildlife habitat.

Soil Testing

Proper amounts of lime and fertilizer needed for yard maintenance can be determined through soil testing. Soil testing can ensure maximum benefits from lime and fertilizer investments. Thus soil testing should be the first step in any fertilization program. Soil testing is best done in the fall to allow recommended amounts of lime and fertilizer to be added in the spring. Information sheets, soil sample boxes and sampling instructions may be obtained from your local county Agricultural Extension office.

Lawn Maintenance Tips

- Apply lawn fertilizer only in cool weather, preferably in fall. Avoid applying immediately before rainfall.
- Mow grass at 2.5" to 3" and increase the height to 3" in summer when grass is under more stress. This helps retain moisture.
- Mow frequently



and keep mower blades sharp to avoid ripping grass blades and causing stress.

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn, where they help retain moisture and provide nutrients. Sweep clippings that blow onto pavement and sidewalk.
- Excessive clippings and plant debris can be composted onsite. This provides an excellent source of mulch. The use of mulch in lawns and plantings can greatly reduce the need for water and fertilizers.
- Pull weeds by hand when feasible or spot treat with a broad leaf herbicide in the fall.
- Encourage deep rooting by watering seldom but thoroughly.

Grass only needs 1" of water (about 1 hr. sprinkling) per week.

- Remember, weeds are not the cause of an unhealthy lawn, they are the result. The best defense against weeds is a thick, healthy lawn that comes from proper watering, fertilization, and mowing.

